

# Cottage Grove Sentinel

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**WEATHER**

Clouds and rain with a high of 57 and a low tonight of 48.  
Full forecast on A5

**COMMUNITY**

Carousel closing in on completion.  
A3

**SPORTS — B**

Lions close in on postseason.  
B1

- **RECORDS**  
Obituaries  
Police Logs  
Wedding Anniv.  
A2
- **LORANE NEWS**  
A5
- **CLASSIFIEDS**  
Listings and public notices  
B8-B9

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## YMCA expands services into Cottage Grove

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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The YMCA has expanded its after-school enrichment program to Harrison Elementary School this year, adding options for a community that is often in search of after-school care.

Rachel Jackson, associate youth development director for the

YMCA, is excited to show the program off to Cottage Grove.

“I like that we’re able to not just be an after-school, but an enrichment program,” said Jackson. “[The children] are learning and building new skills, whether its personal relationships or any of the other enrichment activities that we’re offering.”

The expansion into Cottage

Grove comes as the organization opens more programs in the Bethel School District.

“High-quality after-school programs have consistently been found to contribute to student success and higher graduation rates,” said YMCA CEO Brian Steffen in a statement. “This expansion of our

See **YMCA 7A**

## Input sought in search for new superintendent

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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South Lane School District’s search for a new superintendent has begun and community input is being solicited as part of the process.

School board members, staff and community members gathered at the Cottage Grove High School Oct. 8 for a community input session facilitated by the Oregon School Board Association’s Director of Board Development Steve Kelley.

The superintendent position will be vacated June 2020 by Larry Sullivan, who was initially named to the position as an interim superintendent May 2018 after his predecessor, Krista Parent, was ousted by the school board amid misconduct allegations and a scandal involving a workplace affair.

The Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission later dismissed the misconduct allegations against Parent.

In the coming search process, key priorities and standards for a new superintendent will be identified by community members and a screening committee.

“That becomes the lens by which your school board will look through the entire process,” Kelley said. “That’s what we will look at the applications through. That’s how we’ll develop the interview questions. That’s how we’ll judge the answers.”

Kelley elicited ideas from the audience during the night’s session, asking for opinions about community and school district strengths and challenges.

Audience comments on strengths revolved around Cottage Grove characteristics such as its rural atmosphere, its level of cooperation, welcoming nature, a sense of its own identity and the longevity of stay of its long-term citizens.

Kelley articulated his own personal impressions of the town as well. “I’ve gained an appreciation for your small-town feel — your ruralness, if you will,” he said.

Community member Jimmy Schaper added, “We are a micropolitan. We are the obverse of

See **SEARCH 8A**



PHOTOS BY GREG LEE/FOR THE COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

Cottage Grove Mayor Jeff Gowing and his wife, Celia, greet arrivals at last weekend’s Mayor’s Ball.

## Mayor’s Ball makes for ‘Timeless’ evening

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Dining, dancing and music filled the Cottage Grove Armory Saturday night for the fourth annual Mayor’s Ball.

The ball served as a fundraiser for the continued restoration of the Armory, bringing in thousands of dollars in donations and auction events during the night.

“We’re here tonight



to celebrate and support one of Cottage Grove’s most important historic buildings,” said Mayor Jeff Gowing.

The night’s theme, “Timeless as the Stars,” paid tribute to this history as the musical tone for the night was set by the early-20th century swing

tunes of The Jewel Tones and the 17-piece Blue Skies Big Band.

Cottage Grove city officials and local business leaders populated the guest list alongside Oregon state senators James Manning, Jr. and Floyd Prozanski, Lane County Commissioner Heather Buch and Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis.

The night also marked

See **BALL 11A**

## Veteran housing project moves forward

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD  
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Another step toward veteran housing in Cottage Grove was made Oct. 10 as the county’s housing authority Homes for Good Housing Agency presented plans to the community at the American Legion.

The presentation put potential designs on display for Legion Cottages, four proposed tiny homes for low-income veterans

on a parcel of land behind the American Legion building between Main Street and Ash Avenue. The meeting gave community members an opportunity for feedback.

“When we start talking about any new development in our communities, we like to come out and meet the people who will be future neighbors to talk and show you what our thought process is,” said Homes for Good Communications Direc-

tor Ela Kubok.

Homes for Good purchased the property from the American Legion and secured a \$225,000 grant from Lane County to help with construction of the new homes.

At the meeting, Kubok presented designs created by University of Oregon architecture students through the university’s OregonBILDS program under the direction of professor Rob Thallon.

Thallon’s class has al-

ready made five affordable housing units in Eugene in partnership with Homes for Good.

“It’s a fantastic experience for the students to understand the relationship between what they’re designing as future architects and how it gets built,” Thallon said.

The homes, about 400 square feet, are each equipped with a bathroom, kitchenette, living space, loft and a small

See **HOUSING 10A**

**Celebrating**

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